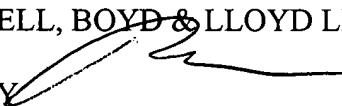


Respectfully submitted,

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BY 

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 4-8 have been amended as follows:

4. (Once Amended) A koji mold according to claim 1 [to 3,] which is Aspergillus oryzac I-2165 (NF14).

5. (Once Amended) A koji mold according to claim 1 [to 4,] wherein the areA gene or a functional derivative thereof is overexpressed.

6. (Once Amended) A method of producing proteolytic enzymes, comprising cultivating a koji mold [according to claims 1-5] belonging to the genus belonging to the genus Aspergillus, Rhizopus, Mucor, or Penicillium, the proteolytic activity of which is not carbon repressed and wherein the creA gene has been mutated such that the gene product thereof is essentially nonfunctional in a suitable growth medium in the presence of a carbon source under conditions that the mold expresses proteolytic enzymes[, and optionally isolating the enzymes in the form of a concentrate].

7. (Once Amended) [Use of the koji mold according to claim 1-5] A method for [the hydrolysis of] hydrolyzing protein-containing materials comprising the steps of using a Koji mold belonging to the genus Aspergillus, Rhizopus, Mucor, or Penicillium, the proteolytic activity of which is not carbon repressed and wherein the creA gene has been mutated such that the gene product thereof is essentially nonfunctional.

8. (Once Amended) The method [Use] according to claim 7, in combination with at least an enzyme [and/or] or a microorganism providing a prolidase activity.

Claims 9-18 have been added.